



# Sustainable Forestry Council

580 Taylor Avenue – E-1 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-8531

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

9-11am

Conference Call 1-888-450-5996

Eric Sprague  
American Forests,  
Washington, DC 20005

Donald Outen  
Baltimore County DEPS  
Towson, Maryland 21204

Gary Allen  
Center for Chesapeake  
Communities  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Kirk Rodgers  
Private landowner  
Woolford, MD 21677

Kim Finch  
MNCPPC,  
Prince George's Co.  
Planning Dept.  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
20772

Kenneth Roberts  
Verso Corporation  
Westernport, MD 21562

Alberto Goetzl, chair  
Dream Catcher Farm,  
LLC  
Adamstown, MD 21710

Bryan Seipp  
Center for Watershed  
Protection  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Christine Cadigan  
American Forest  
Foundation  
Washington, DC 20036

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Al Goetzl  
Kirk Rodgers  
Ken Roberts  
Bryan Seipp  
Gary Allen  
Kim Finch

### DNR:

Donald VanHassent  
Anne Hairston-Strang  
Dan Rider  
Rob Feldt

### Guests:

Christine Cadigan

### Action items:

- Anne send Dovetail Report on Carbon Lifecycle Analysis
- Gary draft a letter to Secretary to strongly encourage DNR and MEA to support biomass
- Dan Rider forward email with summary of wood and Clean Power Plan

### Minutes:

Al Goetzl called the meeting to order at 9:05am on the conference line. Draft minutes from the June meeting were tabled for later review. Al polled membership for interest in being a vice-chair.

Anne Hairston-Strang reviewed recent approvals by the Chesapeake Bay Program for urban tree canopy land use. The two options were discussed for crediting urban tree planting: 1) urban tree canopy expansion that allows separate planting locations and counts 300 trees to be one acre, and 2) urban forest planting that requires a contiguous planting area and planting plan documentation of acreage. The inclusion of tree canopy as a land use will be a significant change in the next Chesapeake Bay model.

Dan Rider reviewed communication on Woodland Incentive Fund tax sources; Dale DeWeese at MD State Dept. of Assessments and Taxation is a point of contact and confirmed that evaluation of sold parcels for applicable transfer taxes for WIF (completely wooded parcel being developed) occurs at the county assessment office. SFC members discussed ways in which local Forestry Boards may be able to assist with the issue, raising awareness of concerns about lack of received revenue for WIF landowner cost-share or gathering information on how local tax offices are interpreting “entirely wooded”.

SFC discussed use of wood biomass and thermal renewable energy credits (RECs). Dan Rider described several biomass projects in beginning stages in Baltimore City, Garrett College, and North Harford Middle School. Forest health issues were discussed, including the gypsy moth, which has avoided large increases due to the wet spring and effective conditions for the biocontrols in the population, and southern pine beetle, observed to be most severe near marsh edges on Delmarva

where rising water and salt intrusion from storm tides increase stress on pines, especially where they are dense and growing slowly. Kirk Rodgers explained the role of post-glacial land subsidence that accelerates sea level rise in the lower Chesapeake Bay, where land that had been pushed up due to weight of glacial sheets to the north is still sinking in geologic response to loss of the glaciers over 10,000 years ago. Salvage harvests are among the only options to slow spread and capture timber value, and aren't always feasible because high water tables limit equipment access.

Don VanHassent gave an update on DNR and MD Forest Service activities, including upcoming reorganization for some units in DNR and personnel updates. He reported that MFS finished the fiscal year in the black and had been able to increase revenue from timber sales; current and future budgets were flat and slightly declining. Decreased access to Special Funds from the Forest and Park Reserve Fund have been mostly offset by increased General Funds, which can be reduced by budget cuts during the year.

Gary Allen reported on the Woodland Incentive Fund Workgroup approved by the legislature, with the extended deadline for a December 2016 report. He noted that they would start from the findings of the prior workgroup, consider the Dec. 2015 Maryland Land Preservation Programs report, and consider how forest stewardship plans and Forest Conservation Management Agreements relate to ag transfer tax interpretations.

The Council discussed possible priorities for upcoming meetings, including the Woodland Incentive Fund funding, Health Emergency Fund funding, and biomass opportunities that might be associated with the Clean Power Plan. Gary proposed pushing a biomass project implementation in the state prior to the 2018 renewal of the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Ken and Kirk supported the need for new markets for forest products. Barriers to including biomass in clean power efforts were discussed, including how combustion was considered, need for life cycle analysis for use of wood biomass, especially a locally tailored one, and counties evaluating use of green energy for schools but not considering biomass. Gary noted the Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Baltimore/Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship and invited input for topics or presenters for the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Council 2017 Summit.

A December conference call, tentatively Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, was proposed (now rescheduled), with a face-to-face meeting for mid-January. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Hairston-Strang  
MD DNR Forest Service